

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1491

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 437

CARACAS FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NS

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY POST-ELECTION OUTLOOK

REF: PARAMARIBO 431

1. SUMMARY. FIRST INDICATIONS FOLLOWING THE NPK VICTORY AT THE POLLS ARE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL NOT MAKE RADICAL DEPARTURES, AT LEAST FOR FIRST YEAR AND PERHAPS LONGER. SEVERAL WEEKS MAY ELAPSE BEFORE A CABINET IS FORMED AND IT IS LIKELY TO BE COMPOSED OF TECHNOCRATS RATHER WHAN POLITICIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. FINAL COUNTING AND CALCULATION OF BALLOTS NOT YET COMPLETE BUT 22-17 DIVISION OF STATEN SEATS BETWEEN NPK AND VHP SEEMS DEFINITE. THE NPK COULD STILL WIN ONE MORE SEAT ON THE AT-LARGE LIST, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF VOTING
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IN THE INTERIOR, THE COUNTING OF WHICH IS NOT COMPLETE.

WITHIN THE NPK-BLOC, DIVISION BETWEEN COMPONENT PARTIES IS AS FOLLOWS: NPS-13, PNR (LEFTIST)-4, PSV (CATHOLIC)-3, KTPI (JAVANESE)-2. THIS COULD CHANGE HOWEVER SINCE AN NPK STATEN MEMBER APPOINTED TO CABINET COULD BE SUCCEEDED BY "SHADOW CANDIDATE" OF A DIFFERENT PARTY. THE 17-MEMBER VHP-BLOC WILL CONSIST OF 14 VHP MEMBERS AND 3 FROM SRI (JAVANESE). THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT NPK MAY TRY TO BRING THE 3 SRI MEMBERS INTO THE GOVERNMENT COALITION IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE MAJORITY AND COMPLETE THE ISOLATION OF VHP. THIS COULD BECOME IMPORTANT IF THE NPK WINS A 23RD SEAT. THE 3 ADDITIONAL SRI SEATS WOULD THEN ENSURE THE 2/3 MAJORITY NECESSARY TO ENACT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, FOR EXAMPLE REGARDING INDEPENDENCE.

3. TWELVE OF THE 22-MEMBER NPK DELEGATION ARE NEW TO THE STATEN WHILE ALL OF THE VHP-BLOC ARE VETERANS, EXCEPT FOR TWO OF THE SRI MEMBERS. SIGNIFICANTLY, THERE ARE NO CREOLES AMONG THE VHP-BLOC, SINCE NONE OF THOSE RUNNING WERE ELECTED⁹ AMONG THE NPK GROUP THERE IS ONLY ONE, A.G. KARAMAT ALI, WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED HINDUSTANI, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT BY MOST OTHER HINDUSTANIS. THUS RACIAL POLARIZATION IN THE STATE IS COMPLETE; OPPOSITION WILL BE ALONG RACIAL LINES.

4. NO CLEAR MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES HAVE EMERGED ALTHOUGH SPECULATION IS RIFE. THE CLIMATE OF OPINION WITHIN THE NPK PARTIES IS INCLINED TO SEEK APPOINTEES WITH TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS. SEEMS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT PNR CHAIRMAN BRUMA WILL NOT TAKE A CABINET POSITION, AND THAT PRIME MINISTER WILL BE A MODERATE NPS TYPE, PERHAPS PARTY CHAIRMAN HENK ARON OR OLTON VAN GENDEREN. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF APPOINTING KARAMAT ALI AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE, TO REASSURE HINDUSTANIS.

5. REGARDING POLICIES OF NEW GOVERNMENT, THE GENERAL FEELING AND THE MESSAGE WE ALREADY RECEIVING FROM NPK-COALITION PARTIES, INCLUDING PNR, IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO RADICAL OR ABRUPT DEPARTURES DURING AT LEAST FIRST YEAR AND PROBABLY LONGER. NPK REMAINS A COALITION BETWEEN DISPARATE PARTIES AND A SPLIT IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY.

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BRUMA AND PNR SEEM NOT TO HAVE BECOME DIZZY WITH SUCCESS AS A RESULT OF ACCESS TO POWER AND WILL PROBABLY BE UNWILLING, AT LEAST FOR WHILE, TO PUCH POLICIES FOR WHICH COUNTRY NOT READY AND WHICH COULD SPLIT COALITION. DURING CAMPAIGN BRUMA SOFT PEDALLED ISSUES SUCH AS INDEPENDENCE AND EXPROPRIATION, GIVING TOTAL PRIORITY TO TASK OF PRESERVING BROAD CREOLE FRONT AND DRIVING VHP FROM POWER. HE REPORTEDLY CONTINUES TO SEE VHP AS THE CHIEF

ENEMY AND WILL COMPROMISE MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE TO MAINTAIN COALITION. FOR EXAMPLE, PNR REPORTEDLY WILL NOT DEMAND "INDEPENDENCE NOW," AS IT HAS FOR YEARS BUT WILL FOLLOW TIMETABLE TO BE ESTABLISHED BY COMMISSION OF REALM, WITH INDEPENDENCE COMING PERHAPS BY 1976. PNR MAY USE THIS INITIAL PERIOD, AND PERHAPS ENTIRE TERM OF THIS GOVERNMENT, TO PROSELYTIZE AND TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE WITHIN THE COALITION.

6. HOWEVER, IT MUCH TOO SOON TO DESCRIBE POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT WHICH NOT YET FORMED. FOREGOING IS SIMPLY CLIMATE OF THINKING LOCALLY AND POSSIBLE FUTURE PARAMETERS. MAY STILL BE SOME WEEKS BEFORE NEW GOVERNMENT IS PUT TOGETHER AND UNTIL THEN THE PICTURE WILL BE LARGELY TENTATIVE.
JOHNSTON

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